

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 IO-13 OES-06 /082 W  
-----121116Z 034765 /20

R 120937Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1030  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7886

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, TH, US, JA  
SUBJECT: ARITA VISIT TO THAILAND

1. JAPANESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ARITA VISITED BANGKOK APRIL 8 AND 9 FURING WHICH TIME HE CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER TANIN AND ATTENDED DINNER HOSTED BY THANIN WHICH INCLUDED FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS LOESAK SOMBATSIRI AND MINISTER OF FINANCE SUPHAT SUTTHTHAM. MFA SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT DURING MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER ON APRIL 8, PRIME MINISTER THANIN PRONOUNCED HIMSELF VERY PLEASED WITH VISIT BY ARITA, WHOSE PRIMARY MESSAGE WAS THAT DURING FUKUDA'S VISIT TO THE U.S. IN MARCH, PRESIDENT CARTER HAD ASKED THAT JAPAN PLAY A LARGER ROLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, BOTH POLITICALLY AS WELL AS ECONOMICALLY, AND JAPAN INTENDED TO DO SO. THIS WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THANIN, WHO HAD HOPED FOR MORE JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN MATTERS, BOTH AS A SOURCE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND ALSO AS A POLITICAL MAKEWEIGHT AGAINST THE COMMUNIST STATES.

2. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCE, THANIN WAS LESS PLEASED WITH ARITA'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT JAPAN INTENDED TO GIVE AID TO THE COMMUNIST INDOCHINA STATES, AS A MEANS OF OPENING AND MAINTAINING LIKES OF COMMUNICATION. HE WARNED  
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ARIA THAT GIVING AID MIGHT BACKFIRE, NOT ONLY AGAINST JAPAN BUT ALSO, AND MORE DIREECTLY, AGAINST THAILAND.

3. FOR HIS PART, ARITA SAID THE JAPANESE WERE DISTURBED BY THE REMOVAL OF AMERICAN GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA AND JAPAN HOPED THAT A REDUCTION RATHER THAN TOTAL PULLOUT WOULD BE THE RESULT AND THAT AT THE VERY LEAST NO FIXED

TIMETABLE WOULD BE ANNOUNCED. ARIATA ALSO SAID THAT FUKUDA HAD SPOKEN WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A BREEDER NUCLEAR REACTOR FOR JAPAN, AND THAT THE JAPANESE WERE DISAPPOINTED WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMERICAN ABANDONMENT OF THE BREEDER PROJECT. ALTHOUGH THE THAI APPRECIATED JAPAN'S INTEREST IN A NEW FUEL SOURCE, THEY FOUND IT SURPRISING THAT THE JAPANESE WOULD CONSIDER ACQUIRING SUCH A REACTOR, IF ONLY BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBLE INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS IT MIGHT POSE. WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, TH, US, JA, (ARITA)  
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